

173-5880-001

FORM RE CONSTRUCTED June 13, 1975

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SELGEM

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Sedgwick
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME	
COMMON:	University Hall, Friends University
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Garfield University

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2100 University ave.			
CITY OR TOWN: Wichita		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: no. 4, Garner Shriver	
STATE Kansas	CODE 20	COUNTY: Sedgwick	CODE 173

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Friends University			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2100 University ave.			
CITY OR TOWN: Wichita		STATE: Kansas	CODE 67213

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: Sedgwick County Courthouse			
CITY OR TOWN: Wichita		STATE: Kansas	CODE 67202

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Work Projects Administration			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1939 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE

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7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)    (Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>University Hall, measuring 232 feet in length, 150 feet in width, and approximately 100 feet in height, was designed in the Romanesque motif by Wichita architects, Proudfoot and Bird, and magnificently constructed in brick with stone trim. The structure, which faces east, is four stories in height with a full basement and a center tower 148 feet high. The brick walls are of running bond construction with stone quoining at the corners. Stone bands divide the building horizontally with decorative stone treatment at the window spandrels. The roof line is defined by a heavy ornate cornice resting on closely spaced brackets. The roof itself is steep-pitched and shingled. The form of the building is generally T-shaped with circular towers at the corners of the west wing and the north and south ends. Window openings are elongated rectangles; second and fourth floor windows have massive arched heads made of stone. Stone-capped buttresses separate the side windows of the west wing. The main entrance is terminated in a large circular rough-hewn stone arch. The entire building rests on a rough-hewn stone base.</p> <p>The towers on the ends of the building, which had fireproof walls of double thickness and great iron doors to prevent drafts, originally served as fire escapes. The spiral staircases in the towers have been removed and conventional fire escapes added at various points to the building's exterior. The main entrance has been changed by the addition of large glass panels and new doors. Otherwise the outward appearance is much the same as when built.</p>	

FOR USE ONLY

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian    ☐ 16th Century    ☐ 18th Century    ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century    ☐ 17th Century    ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1886-1888

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

University Hall of Friends University was erected 1886-1888 as the main building at Garfield University. It was designed by the architectural firm of Proudfoot and Bird, which relocated in Wichita from Philadelphia in the late 1880's. Various factors helped to bring the university into being: the Christian Churches of Kansas wanted to establish a church-related college for their young people; Rev. W. B. Hendryx, pastor of Wichita's Central Christian Church, wanted to establish a university as a memorial to his close friend, the assassinated President, James A. Garfield; and Wichita promoters and businessmen believed a university would help the city's growth and boom to continue.

Garfield University opened in September, 1887, and since the new building was not ready, classes opened in a building constructed nearby for business purposes. Before its first year ended Garfield enrolled about 500 students, and for the second year 1070.

After graduating its first and only senior class, Garfield University closed its doors in 1890 for several reasons: the building had cost almost twice as much as originally planned; the endowment fund of \$100,000 was not raised by the Christian Churches of Kansas; when the boom bubble burst, town lots which the school had been selling to meet operating expenses became worthless, and the end of the boom made money exceedingly difficult to raise.

The school was reorganized and opened again in March, 1892, as Garfield Central Memorial University. It closed for good on November 18, 1893. The campus then became the property of Edgar Harding, a Boston financier, who had loaned money to the school.

Unsuccessful attempts were made in 1895 and 1897 to interest the state legislature in acquiring the property for a state normal school.

For five years the building, of which only a small portion of the 66 rooms had been finished, was a haven for owls, birds, and bats and the campus a pasture for the cows and goats of Wichita residents.

James M. Davis, a wealthy Quaker businessman, saw a full page advertisement in a St. Louis paper in 1897 offering the Garfield University campus for sale. He acquired the campus in 1898 from Edgar Harding for \$50,000 and in addition received over 300 building lots provided by Wichita citizens as an inducement for the purchase. The university campus was offered to the Kansas Society of Friends with the stipulation that a \$50,000 endowment fund be raised for the school within six years. (The fund was in fact raised in five years.) The conditions were accepted and Friends University opened its doors in September, 1898.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Blackmar, Frank W., "Higher Education in Kansas (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900), pp. 156, 157.
- "Garfield University," The Kansas Messenger, v. 38, no. 4, Jan., 1934, pp. 27, 28.
- "Garfield University at Wichita," The Kansas Messenger, v. 58, no. 4, Jan. 1954, pp. 53-56.
- Kirk, R. J., "From the Ashes of Abandonment," Kansas Magazine, March, 1909, pp. 54-59.
- "Wichita of 1897 Described in Indiana News Clipping," Wichita Evening Eagle, Jan. 28, 1956.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "	37	40	40	
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "		97	21	
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "			58	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3-4

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey	
ORGANIZATION		DATE	
Kansas State Historical Society		Nov. 20, 1970	
STREET AND NUMBER:			
120 W. 10th			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE	CODE
Topeka		Kansas	66612
			20

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Nyle H. Miller

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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(Continuation Sheet) p. 1

STATE	
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COUNTY	
Sedgwick	
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8.

Operating on a "pay-as-you-go" basis Friends University completed the interior of the building year-by-year as funds permitted.

University Hall, Friends University, is significant both for its architecture--it is undoubtedly one of the most outstanding examples of Kansas architecture--and the early educational efforts of Garfield University.



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9-17-73

(Number all entries)

2. The address of University Hall, Friends University, is now listed as 2100 University avenue, Wichita.

